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EARLY METHODS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN NORTH AMERICA.

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Prior to the foundation of medical colleges in North America it was customary for young men desirous of learning "physic," to go abroad and study in the schools of Edinburgh, London, or the Continent, if they had the means; or, if they had not the "where-withal" they would apprentice themselves for a term of years to some practitioner of repute in the Colonies, and at the expiration of the term of their indenture to him, begin practice on their own account. As there were practically no laws as to who could, or who could not practice medicine, many poorly educated physicians and charlatans arose to feed upon the laity. It has been estimated that at the outset of the War for Independence, there were upward of 3500 practitioners of medicine in the Colonies, of whom not more than 400 had received medical degrees. Dr. Stille,¹ quotes from a "List of the Graduates in Medicine in the University of Edinburgh," printed by Mill & Co. in 1807, the fact that between the years 1758 and 1788 the names of sixty-three Americans appear on the list. He also points out that but one of these students came from the New England Colonies, signifying the closer relations in existence between the Middle and Southern States and the mother country.

In 1758 Dr. Ralph Asheton of Philadelphia, was one of the students in medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and I have in my possession photographs of his matriculation cards and certificates of attendance on the various courses of lectures. The originals were written or printed upon the backs of ordinary playing-cards—thus we find his ticket to the Royal Infirmary is made out upon the back of the seven of diamonds, and that admitting him to the second course on anatomy, upon the back of the deuce of spades. His cards admitting him to the lectures are all duly stamped with the seal of the university. At the conclusion of his studies he received a certificate, beautifully engrossed with pen and ink, bearing the following inscription:

This is to certify that Mr. Ralph Asheton has *diligently* and carefully attended my Courses of Anatomical and Chirurgical Lectures.
(Signed,) HENRY WATSON.

August 5th, 1758.

HENRY WATSON.

Dr. Morton,² speaking of the status of these physicians who crossed the ocean for their medical education, well says: "We find that the professional men of

the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were generally much better educated than most of their successors of the present time. Almost without exception they were classical scholars. Their graduating theses must be written in Latin. Travel was essential, notwithstanding the encumbered modes of motion to which they were subjected. Leyden, Paris, Edinburgh, London, Oxford, Upsal, Bonn, and to some extent Vienna, Berlin and the Italian schools, received and honored them; they, as a rule, by their subsequent career, equally honoring the places which they visited and where they sojourned. They were also men of affairs. It is surprising what a part they took at home in politics (in its broad sense) and government. They were good soldiers, and freely offered themselves and their services to their country in time of need." Everyone will recall in this connection the eminent services rendered the patriot cause by Dr. Joseph Warren, who fell at Bunker Hill, by Dr. Prescott, who warned the minute men at Lexington and Concord, and many other physicians, too numerous to enumerate, who served in the armies or in the Congresses of the infant nation.

Not much has descended to us about the student-life of those days. With the exception of the fortunate ones, who could look back upon days spent in an English, Scotch or Continental college, the period of their tutelage seems to have been a dreary one to those disciples of Esculapius whose reminiscences have remained to us. Thacher,³ in several of his biographic sketches, gives us glimpses of the life they led, which show conclusively that it was not all beer and skittles.

Dr. John Bard was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1716. He received his early education in Philadelphia, and at the age of 14 years was bound apprentice to the senior Dr. Kearsley, of that city. Kearsley was a man of great professional attainments, and very eminent in his profession and in public and social life, but possessed of a most morose and gloomy temperament. "He treated his pupils with great rigor, and subjected them to the most menial employments, to which, Dr. Bard has been heard to say, he would never have submitted, but from the apprehension of giving pain to his excellent mother, who was then a widow with seven children and a very moderate income, and from the encouragement he received from the kindness of her particular friend, Mrs. Kearsley, of whom he always spoke in terms of warmest gratitude, affection and respect. Under such circumstance she persevered to the end of seven tedious years, stealing his hours of study from sleep after the family had retired to rest, and before they arose in the morning."

Benjamin Rush was born on his father's farm, a few miles from Philadelphia, in 1745. He obtained the degree of A.B. from Princeton in 1760, before he was 15 years old, and at once began the study of medicine, serving as an apprentice to Dr. John Redman

¹ Life of John Dickinson.

² History of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

³ American Medical Biography.

of Philadelphia, for the next six years. Thacher says, "The writings of Hippocrates were among the first books Benjamin Rush read in medicine, and while he was an apprentice he translated his "Aphorisms" from Greek into English. He also began to keep a notebook of remarkable occurrences, the plan of which he afterward improved and continued through life. From a part of this record, written in the seventeenth year of age of its author, we derive the only account of the yellow fever in 1762 in Philadelphia which has descended to posterity. In the same year he was one of Dr. Shippen's ten pupils, who attended the first course of anatomical lectures given in this country. Two years after, and while he was a daily attendant in the shop of Dr. Redman, he commenced his brilliant career as an author. On the expiration of his apprenticeship, Benjamin Rush went in 1766, to Edinburgh to prosecute his studies in that city."

Dr. Daniel Drake was of a later period, but his medical education was so typical of that of an earlier date that I venture to quote concerning it from his life, by Mansfield. His apprenticeship began in 1800, when he was 16 years of age, to Dr. Goforth. "During the next three years his chief occupation was the study of medicine, the running of errands, the compounding of drugs, and all such employments as befall a country doctor's boy, student, young man, or whatever else bluntness or courtesy might call him."

There were no systematic courses of lectures or demonstrations for these young men, unless they happened to live in Philadelphia, Boston or New York. To Dr. Cadwallader Colden is to be ascribed the credit of the first attempt to establish a systematic course of lectures on medical subjects in the colonies. Dr. Colden was born in Dunse, Scotland, Feb. 17, 1688. He graduated in the academic course at the University of Edinburgh in 1705, and then studied medicine. In 1710 he crossed the ocean and settled in Pennsylvania. In 1715 he went back to England, but returned to Pennsylvania in 1716. In a letter of James Logan of Philadelphia, written May 1, 1717, is the following reference to his scheme:

"All I know of that bill is only this. He (Colden) came to me one day to desire my opinion of a proposal to get an Act of Assembly for an allowance to him as physician for the poor of this place. I told him I thought very well of the thing, but doubted whether it could be brought to bear in the House. Not long after R. Hill showed me a bill for this purpose, put in his hands by the Governor, with the two further provisions in it, which were, that a public physical lecture should be held in Philadelphia, to the support of which every unmarried man above twenty-one years, should pay six shillings, eight-pence, or an English crown yearly, and that the corpses of all persons whatever that died here should be visited by an appointed physician, who should receive for his trouble three shillings and four-pence. These things I owned very commendable, but doubted our Assembly would never go into them, that of the lecture especially."

Colden's efforts were fruitless, the prognostications of Logan proving correct.

In the year 1750 Dr. Thomas Cadwallader, who had been a pupil of Cheselden of London, gave a series of practical demonstrations of anatomy to a number of physicians of Philadelphia. It is almost pathetic to read of the eagerness and zeal for knowledge displayed by these old fellows, who, instead of manifesting any jealousy of the superior opportunities of

their colleague, anxiously sought to reap the advantage of his London experience, which he in his turn was just as generous in imparting to them. In the same year (1750) Thacher tells us that a criminal named Hermanus Carroll was executed for murder in New York City, and his body was dissected by Dr. John Bard and Dr. Peter Middleton for the instruction of the young men then engaged in the study of medicine. "This is the first essay made in the colonies for the purpose of medical knowledge by dissection, of which we have any record."

Somewhere about the year 1752 there came to Rhode Island a young Scotchman named William Hunter, who was a relative of the two famous brothers, John and William Hunter. He was born in 1729, educated under the elder Monro, and served as a surgeon's mate at the battle of Culloden. In 1754-6 he delivered lectures at Newport, on anatomy and comparative anatomy, which were advertised in the Boston newspapers. He died in Boston in 1777. It is curious to reflect that one of the earliest teachers of anatomy in this country was a near relation of two of the greatest teachers in the medical history of England.

To no one, however, does the advancement of the study of medicine in its early days in the colonies owe more than to Dr. William Shippen, Jr., of Philadelphia. He was born in the latter city in 1736; his father being a prominent physician there. After graduating from the College of New Jersey, as Princeton was then called, he entered the office of his father and studied medicine with him for three years, and then went to England, where he studied anatomy with John Hunter, and midwifery with William Hunter and Dr. McKenzie, finally graduating from the medical department of the University of Edinburgh. His graduation thesis was, "De Placentæ cum Utero Nexu." An interesting letter from his father, to a gentleman in England, has descended to us; in it he speaks of the course of study he wishes his son to pursue while abroad, as follows: "My son has had his education in the best college in this part of the country, and has been studying physic with me, besides which he has had the opportunity of seeing the practice of every gentleman of note in our city. But for want of that variety of operations and those frequent dissections which are common in older countries, I must send him to Europe. His scheme is to gain all the knowledge he can in anatomy, physic, and surgery. He will stay in London for the winter, and shall attend Mr. Hunter's anatomical lectures and private dissections, injections, etc., and at the same time go through a course of midwifery with Dr. Smellie; also enter as a pupil in Guy's Hospital. As soon as the season is over, he may go to France, and live with Dr. Leese in Rouen, and there study physic until he can pass an examination and take a degree."

Young Shippen returned to this country in 1762, having been abroad five years, and in March of the same year he began the delivery of a series of lectures on midwifery—the first special course on that subject ever given in this country. The following announcement of the course was published in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*:

DOCTOR SHIPPEN, JUNIOR,

Proposes to begin his first course on Midwifery as soon as a number of pupils sufficient to defray the necessary expense shall apply. A course will consist of about twenty lectures in which he will treat of that part of anatomy which is necessary to understand that branch, explain all cases of midwifery—

natural, difficult, and preternatural—and give directions how to treat them with safety to the mother and child; describe the diseases incident to women and children in the month, and direct to proper remedies; will take occasion during the course to explain and apply those curious anatomical plates and casts of the gravid uterus at the Hospital, and conclude the whole with necessary cautions against the dangerous and cruel use of instruments.

In order to make this course more perfect, a convenient lodging is provided for the accommodation of a few poor women, who otherwise might suffer for want of the common necessaries on these occasions, to be under the care of a sober, honest matron, well acquainted with lying-in women, employed by the doctor for that purpose. Each pupil to attend two courses at least, for which he is to pay five guineas. Perpetual pupils to pay ten guineas.

The female pupils may be taught privately, and assisted at any of their private labors when necessary. The Doctor may be spoke with at his house, in Front street, every morning between the hours of six and nine; or at his office in Letitia Court every evening.

Dr. Norris⁴ gives very copious extracts from notes taken on Dr. Shippen's introductory lecture and I quote from him the following portions. The lecture began with the statement that he was often called in consultation in cases of difficult labor, "most of which were made so by the unskilful old women about them, and seeing that great suffering to the mothers, accompanied often with loss of life to them, or their offspring, have followed, which could easily have been prevented by proper management, had made him resolve to introduce a course of lectures on that useful and necessary branch of surgery, in order to remedy those terrible evils, and to instruct those women who have had virtue enough to own their ignorance and apply for instruction, as well as those students who are qualifying themselves to practise in different parts of the country with safety and advantage to their fellow creatures." He mentions several cases of gross mismanagement of labor cases which had fallen under his observation, and then continues, "I have reason to believe that I shall be able to present each of you with one natural labor at least, and have provided a machine, by which I can demonstrate all kinds of laborious and preternatural labors, and shall give every necessary direction to enable you to manage all cases with the greatest safety to mother and child."

He stated the order in which his lectures would be given, "1st. On the Bones of the Pelvis. 2nd. Male and Female Organs. 3rd. Changes in the Uterus. 4th. On the Placenta. 5th and 6th. On the Circulation and Nutrition of the Fœtus. 7th. On the Signs of Pregnancy. 8th. On the Menses. 9th. Fluor Albus. 10th. On Natural Labors. 11th and succeeding ones on Laborious or Preternatural Labors, with the use of Instruments; and concluded by particular lectures on the Diseases of Women and Children within the month, and directions concerning the diet of each, and methods of choosing and making good nurses."

He reviewed the history of midwifery and pointed out what was necessary to make a man midwife "an adept in his profession, and to gain the good opinion of the female world," advising him to preserve a "grave deportment" with well-timed conversation, but avoiding religiously any jokes about the patient or profession." He warned the class that the drinking habit might easily be contracted "insensibly by the foolish custom of taking a dram in a cold or wet morning." Concerning their fees he says, "I give you only one admonition, which is, to charge no one extravagantly, and every one in proportion to their abilities, remem-

bering that by giving your service gratuitously to the poor, you will get much from the rich."

Those "curious anatomical plates and casts of the gravid uterus at the Hospital," to which Dr. Shippen refers in his announcement, form a most interesting link in the genealogic chain connecting medical education in this country with that in England. They were presented to the managers of the hospital by Dr. John Fothergill of London, and the whole story of their presentation and subsequent history is most interestingly told in Dr. Morton's history of the hospital. When Dr. Shippen was studying abroad he made the acquaintance of Dr. Fothergill, who became much interested in the account he gave him of the hospital. On July 27, 1762, Dr. Fothergill presented the hospital library with its first volume, "for the benefit of the young students who may attend under the direction of the physicians," and he also gave the hospital, toward the founding of a museum, seven cases of anatomic drawings and casts, which were then valued at £350.

In a letter to James Pemberton, at that time one of the managers of the hospital, Doctor Fothergill says: "I need not tell thee that the knowledge of anatomy is of exceeding great use to practitioners in physic and surgery and that the means of procuring subjects with you are not easy. Some pretty accurate anatomical drawings, about half as big as the life, have fallen into my hands, which I propose to send to your hospital to be under the care of the physicians, and to be by them explained to the students and pupils who may attend the hospital. In the want of real subjects these will have their use, and I have recommended to Dr. Shippen to give a course of anatomical lectures to such as may attend. He is very well qualified for the subject, and will soon be followed by an able assistant, Dr. Morgan, both of whom I apprehend, will not only be useful to the Province in their employments, but if suitably countenanced by the Legislature will be able to erect a school of physic among you that may draw students from various parts of America and West Indies, and at least furnish them with a better idea of the rudiments of their profession than they have at present the means of acquiring on your side of the water."

It will be remembered that Drs. Morgan and Shippen subsequently filled the two first professorial chairs in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania. On the minutes of the Pennsylvania Hospital, May 17, 1763, occurs the following entry:

Doct. William Shippen, Junr. attended and proposed that an advantage may arise to the hospital by the Anatomical Drawing & Casts presented by Dr. Fothergill. He offered his services to attend twice in a month to give some general explanation thereof to such Persons who may be desirous to view them, the Board approving of the Doctor's Kind Intention, the following advertisement proposed by him was agreed to be published in the next *Gazette*, viz:

"The Generous Donation of Doctr. Fothergill of London to the Pennsylvania Hospital of a Sett of Anatomical Paintings and Castings in plaister of Paris representing different views of the several parts of the human body, being now deposited in a Convenient Chamber of the Hospital, as there may be many Persons, besides Students in Physick desirous to gain some general knowledge of the structure of the human body, Dr. William Shippen, Jr. proposes to attend there on the Seventh Day of the Week the 21st inst. at 5 o'clock P.M. and once a fortnight on the same day of the week, at the same hour during the summer season, to explain and demonstrate to such persons who are willing to give a Dollar each for the benefit of the Hospital."

That Dr. Shippen did not possess the sole right to use preparations is shown by the following resolution

⁴ Early History of Medicine in Philadelphia.

adopted by the board of managers of the hospital: "Any Professor of Anatomy being desirous to exhibit lectures, he is to apply to the Managers in attendance for Liberty." They also regulated the price for pupils in physic by the following rule: "All pupils attending lectures are to pay a pistole each."

In the autumn of 1762 Dr. Shippen announced to the public, through the columns of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, his intention to give a course of anatomic lectures, in the following letter.

Philadelphia, November 11th, 1762.

Mr. Hall

Please to inform the public that a course of Anatomical Lectures will be opened this winter in Philadelphia, for the advantage of the young gentlemen now engaged in the study of Physic, in this and the neighboring provinces, whose circumstances and connections will not admit of their going abroad for improvement to the anatomical schools in Europe; and also for the entertainment of any gentlemen who may have the curiosity to understand the anatomy of the Human Frame. In these lectures the situation, figure and structure of all the parts of the Human body will be demonstrated, their respective uses explained, and as far as a course of anatomy will permit, their diseases, with the indications and methods of cure briefly treated of.

All the necessary operations in surgery will be performed, a course of bandages exhibited, and the whole conclude with an explanation of some of the curious phenomena that arise from an examination of the gravid uterus, and a few plain directions in the study and practice of midwifery. The necessity and public utility of such a course in this growing country, and the method to be pursued therein, will be more particularly explained in an Introductory Lecture, to be delivered the 16th, instant, at six o'clock in the evening, at the State House, by William Shippen, Jr., M.D. The lectures will be given at his Father's house in Fourth Street. Tickets for the course to be had of the Doctor at five pistoles each; and any gentleman who may incline to see the subject prepared for the lectures, and to learn the art of dissecting, injecting, etc., is to pay five pistoles more.

In February, 1763, he published the following notice:

Dr. Shippen having finished on Osteology—the most dry, though the most necessary part of anatomy—will admit gentlemen who want to gratify their curiosity, to any particular lecture—Tickets five shillings.

The first course that he delivered was attended by but ten students, but in subsequent years he had as many as two hundred and fifty in a class. There was a great deal of opposition to the establishment of a place in which it was proposed to dissect the human body, and several times the building in which the dissections were performed was attacked and its windows broken. Dr. Norris says, "In one of these attacks the Doctor himself made a narrow escape by passing out through an alley, while his carriage, which stood before the door with its blinds raised, and which was supposed to contain him, received, along with a shower of other missiles, a musket ball through the center of it. More than once he was compelled to desert his own dwelling and conceal himself, in order to avoid the tyrannical exactions of the people. Several times he addressed the citizens through the public papers, assuring them that the reports of his disturbing private burying-grounds were absolutely false, and stating that the subjects he dissected were either of persons who had committed suicide, or such as had been publicly executed; except, he naively adds, 'now and then one from the Potter's Field.'" Gradually, however, he overcame the opposition to his project, and the undertaking proved thoroughly successful. Norris says that in December, 1762, the newspapers stated the body of a negro who had committed suicide by cutting his throat with a bottle, was handed over to Dr. Shippen for anatomic purposes, and he also quotes the follow-

ing paragraph from the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, indicating that he received aid from other sources than the city of Philadelphia: "Last Saturday a prisoner was executed at Gloucester, New Jersey, pursuant to his sentence, and his body was sent by order of the Chief Justice to Dr. Shippen's anatomical theatre for dissection."

The Pennsylvania Hospital was a great center for medical instruction, furnishing greater facilities for clinical observations than could be obtained anywhere else throughout the colonies. The first patient was admitted to the hospital, Feb. 10, 1752. For some time the number of patients capable of accommodation in the hospital was so limited that the physicians and surgeons on its staff did not require the aid of skilled medical assistance in the performance of their duties, but as the number of inmates increased the staff found it very essential that they should have the aid of assistants who possessed some skill in the handling of patients, dressing of wounds, etc., and it became customary for them to bring their apprentices with them when they made the rounds of the wards, and use them as dressers and assistants, the apprentices in turn deriving the benefit of seeing the practice of the hospital. Besides their own apprentices they soon began to allow other students to make the rounds. So many young men availed themselves of these privileges that on May 10, 1763, the managers, resolved, "It is the unanimous opinion of the Board that such of them at least who are not apprentices to the Physicians of the House, should pay a proper Gratuity for the Benefit of the Hospital for their privilege; the consideration of stipulating the sum is referred to the next board after consulting w'th y'e Physicians."

Dr. Morton quotes the minutes of the next meeting of the Board, May 31, 1763, which, as he justly says, shows the "disinterestedness and liberality" of the physicians "in a very honourable light." The meeting occurred just after the annual election of managers and physicians to the hospital.

5TH MO., 28TH, 1763.

It appears that the Physicians chosen were informed thereof and have agreed to undertake the Service this year. A copy of the Minute of last Board respecting the Students who attend the wards at the time of the visiting the Patients having been communicated to them: Doctr. Thomas Bond and Dr. Cadw. Evans now attended and Informed the board that the several Physicians have met & considered the same & committed their Sentiments thereon to writing which they delivered & was read, it being as follows, viz:

"PHILADELPHIA, May 31, 1763.

"Upon considering the Minute of the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital made the 10th of 5 mo. 1763, relative to those Students who attend the Wards of said Hospital. It is our opinion that each Student who is not an Apprentice to one of the Physicians attending the House shall pay six Pistoles as a Gratuity for that Privilege That the Managers & Doctors in Attendance for the time being shall be the judges who are proper to be admitted or refused. And further, as the Custom of most of the Hospitals in Great Britain has given such Gratuities to the Physicians and Surgeons attending them, we think it properly belongs to us to appropriate the Money arising from thence. And propose to apply it to the founding of a Medical Library in the said Hospital, which we judge will tend greatly to the Advantage of the Pupils & the Honour of the Institution.

"THOS. BOND.

"THOS. CADWALLADER,

"PHINEAS BOND,

"CAD. EVANS."

After Consideration whereof the board agrees to the Proposal in respect to the terms upon which Students in Physic are to be admitted to attend the wards; the Gratuity for which to be paid the treasurer, and in regard to the Proposal for a Medical Library, that such books as are purchased should be

approved of by the Managers, as likewise the manner in which they are to be lent out.

At the end of their term of instruction such students were given certificates signed by the medical staff and managers of the hospital. The following was the form used for this purpose:

This is to Certify that _____, son of _____ West Jersey, entered regularly as a pupil of the Pennsylvania Hospital _____ 1763 and continued his attendance with Diligence and Application, to _____ 1764 during which time we hope and have reason to believe he has made considerable Progress in the Knowledge of Anatomy, and the Practice of Physick and Surgery, therefore wishing Happiness and success we give from under our Hands and the seal of the Corporation, this Testimonial of our Esteem and Approbation.

In 1773, Dr. Morton tells us, the managers began the custom of taking young men who wished to study medicine as apprentices to the institution, the term of apprenticeship being five years. They were regularly indentured to the hospital for this length of time; when it was over each young man received a certificate stating that fact and a suit of "cloathes." This system of apprenticeship was continued for many years. After the foundation of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania the apprentices attended the lectures there while they were in the service of the hospital. It was not until 1824 that the rule was made requiring all those serving the hospital in the capacity of what we now call "residents," to be regularly graduated from a medical college previous to their appointment to the position.

In 1766 Dr. Thomas Bond, of the staff of physicians to the hospital, suggested to the managers the propriety of establishing a regular course of clinical lectures, and in order to secure their assent to such a course being given he invited them to his house, Nov. 26, 1766, where he read them "An Essay on the Utility of Clinical Lectures." This lecture was presented to the hospital, and so pleased the managers that they ordered its insertion in their Minutes, whence Dr. Morton resuscitated it in the "History of the Pennsylvania Hospital."*

These lecture courses of Dr. Bond's proved highly successful and were attended by many students. There seems at times to have been considerable difficulty in the collection of fees from the students for the attendance, so that on April 2, 1770, the board of managers passed a resolution that no student should be permitted to attend who could not show a certificate stating that his fee had been paid. In 1774 the cost of the clinical lecture was made £5 per course to "all students attending lectures, and not apprenticed to physicians."

One of the most picturesque of the physicians and teachers in the early history of medicine in Philadelphia was Dr. Abraham Chovet. He was born in England, May 25, 1704, received his medical education in that country, and on Aug. 31, 1735, he was appointed demonstrator of anatomy in the United Company of Barbers and Surgeons. Afterward he went to the West Indies and lived for some time in Jamaica. In 1770 he and his family were obliged to flee from the island, owing to a slave insurrection, and they settled in Philadelphia.

The following description of the old Doctor's appearance was given to Watson,⁵ the Annalist, by

one who had often seen him: "This aged physician was almost daily to be seen pushing his way in spite of his feebleness, in a kind of hasty walk, or rather shuffle, his head and straight white hair bowed and hanging forward beyond the cape of his black old-fashioned coat, mounted by a small cocked hat, closely trimmed upward upon the crown behind, but projectingly and out of all proportion cocked before, and seemingly the impelling cause of his anxious forward movements, his lips, closely compressed (*sans* teeth) together, were in constant motion, as though he were munching something all the time; his golden-headed Indian cane, not used for his support, but dangling by a black silken string from his wrist; the ferule of his cane and the heels of his capacious shoes, well lined in winter time with thick woolen cloth, might be heard jingling and scraping the pavement at every step; he seemed on the street always as one hastening as fast as his aged limbs would permit him to some patient dangerously ill, without looking at any one passing him to the right or left." The Pennsylvania Hospital still possesses a wax medallion of him, made on his eightieth birthday, which bears the following inscription: "Abraham Chovet, born May 25, 1704, drawn May 25, 1784, by his servant, Dr. Eckhout."

The old gentleman was a great wit, and many amusing anecdotes have descended concerning him. He was noted for his use of expletives, which, Watson says, were held to be "neither useful nor ornamental." Several of the stories of his humor are worthy of repetition: Happening one day to be overtaken by a rainstorm when at the house of Samuel Fisher, a well-known Quaker, the latter lent him his own greatcoat on the condition that while he was in it he was to use no oaths, to which the Doctor agreed. When he brought back the coat, Fisher said: "Well, doctor, didst thou swear whilst thou hadst on my coat?" "No," replied the Doctor, "but there was a damnable disposition to lie." He was a notorious Tory, but seems to have been humored in the expression of his opinions, even by advanced patriots.

In the appendix of "Christopher Marshall's Diary" the two following stories are quoted from the *New York Gazette* for 1828: Dr. Chovet one day entered the coffee-house with an open letter in his hand, at the hour when many merchants were in the habit of gathering there. "On seeing the Doctor they all surrounded him, enquiring what news he had in that letter. . . . In reply to this inquiry, he said the letter contained information of the death of an old cobbler in London, who had his stall in one of the by-streets, and asked the gentlemen what they supposed the cobbler had died worth. One said £5000, another £10,000, and another £20,000 sterling. 'No, gentlemen, no; you are all mistaken; not one farthing, gentlemen'; running out, laughing at the joke at the expense of the collected mercantile wisdom of the city."

"Another time having been sent for to the Spanish Minister, Don Juan Miralles, who resided in old Mr. Chew's house, in Third Street, between Walnut and Spruce streets, the weather being rather unpleasant, the Minister ordered his carriage to the door to convey the Doctor home. The Doctor, full of fun and joke, directed the coachman to drive by the Coffee House, which, as he approached, was perceived by the merchants, who immediately drew up in order,

*This lecture is well worth reading as a statement of medical knowledge at that date, and only its great length—between three and four thousand words—prevents its reproduction here with all its peculiarities of spelling and punctuation. Its reading would in no way diminish our respect for the abilities and accomplishments of the pioneers in medicine in this country.

⁵Annals of Philadelphia.

⁶Edited by William Duane, Phila., 1839.

hats off, to pay their respects to Don, as minister from a friendly power. The Doctor kept himself close back in the carriage until directly opposite the coffee-house, the gentlemen all bowing and scraping, when he pops out his head. 'Good morning, gentlemen, good morning; I hope you are all well; thank you in the name of His Majesty, King George,' and drove off, laughing heartily at having again joked with the Philadelphia Whigs." At the time when the mob carted Dr. John Kearsley, Jr., the son of the architect of Christ Church, and another violent Tory, through the streets, Chovet only escaped the same fate by hiding in the stable of Mr. Marshall. As a rule, however, Dr. Chovet, so far as his politics were concerned, seems to have been regarded as an amusing and eccentric old gentleman whose idiosyncrasies were harmless. He certainly never endured the gross indignities which befell so many of his fellow Tories.

Dr. Chovet brought from England a collection of wax models, and dried and injected anatomic preparations, and in the winter season of 1774-75 he delivered a series of anatomic lectures illustrated by them, of which he made the following announcement:

AT THE ANATOMICAL MUSEUM

in Videl's Alley, Second Street, on Wednesday, the Seventh of December at six in the evening

DR. CHOVET

will begin his course of Anatomical and Physiological Lectures, in which the several parts of the human body will be demonstrated, with their mechanism and actions, together with the doctrines of life, health and the several effects resulting from the actions of the parts; on his curious collection of Anatomical wax-works, and other natural preparations; to be continued the whole winter until the course is completed. As this course cannot be attended with the disagreeable sight or smell of recent disease and putrid carcasses, which often disgust even the students in Physick, as well as the curious, otherwise inclined to this useful and sublime part of natural philosophy, it is hoped this undertaking will meet with suitable encouragement.

Tickets to be had for the whole course at Dr. Chovet's house in Second Street, Philadelphia.

On Nov. 24, 1783, Dr. John Foulke received permission from the board of managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital to use one of the upper rooms of the building known as the "elabratory" of the hospital for the purpose of giving lectures on "Chirurgical and Physical Subjects during the season." He was not only, according to Watson, reckoned "the best surgeon of his day," but also "the next best skater" in the city; "skating 'High Dutch,' and being able to cut his own name at one flourish, constituted the Doctor's fame as a skater." In 1784 he opened "An Anatomical Hall" with a "determination to put the character of a Philadelphia anatomist upon a higher footing than it had ever before been," also asserting, "that in his pursuit he was determined to observe every attention to decency, solemnity and punctuality." The charge was \$12 a course. He continued giving these courses of lectures until his death, in 1796, and they seem to have been very largely attended.

There were several other lecture courses given in Philadelphia toward the end of the last century, which are worthy of note, indicating what an active center the city was in the development of medical education on this continent. Dr. John Hannum Gibbon, who was a Pennsylvanian by birth, graduated from the University of Edinburgh, in the medical department, in 1786; returned to this country and married a Miss Heysham of Philadelphia, after which

he settled in the latter city, on Arch Street. In 1789 and for some years afterward he lectured on the "Theory and Practice of Medicine." He died at the early age of 36 years, on Oct. 5, 1795. Norris also mentions the lectures on midwifery, delivered by Dr. Benjamin Duffield, from 1793 until his death in 1799. Dr. Duffield also lectured on "Diseases of Hospitals and Jails," and "The American Practice of Physic." According to Norris, Drs. Church and James continued his obstetric lectures after his death. The same authority speaks of a course of lectures by Dr. Price of London, delivered in Philadelphia toward the close of the century, on "The Theory and Practice of Physick," and "Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children," and of the course on obstetrics given by Dr. Dewees in 1797.

PELVIC DISEASE.

IS IT A CAUSE OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL AFFECTIONS?

Presented to the Section on Obstetrics and Diseases of Women at the Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, held at Denver, Colo., June 7-10, 1898.

BY FREDERICK PETERSON, M.D.

President of Board of Managers of Craig Colony for Epileptics; Chief of Clinic, Nervous Department, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Clinical Professor of Insanity in the Woman's Medical College.

NEW YORK CITY.

It was in the sixteenth century that Montaigne, a friend of physicians, though a hater of their art, wrote, that it was safer to follow the example of the ancient Egyptians and employ specialists for each particular organ of the body than to trust one's self to the general practitioner. "As we have doublet- and breeches-makers, distinct trades, to cloath us, and are so much better fitted, being that each of them meddles only with his own business, and has less to trouble his head withal, than a taylor that undertakes all; and as in matter of diet, great persons, for their better convenience, and to the end they may be better served, have cooks of distinct offices, some for soups and pottages, and others for roasting, which one cook that should undertake the whole service, could not so well perform, so must we be treated in our cures." If that were good advice in Montaigne's day, how much more valuable must it be to-day when the bounds of scientific medicine have expanded far beyond the vision and comprehension of any one man!

No single mind can grasp and practically apply the vast store of human knowledge accumulated in the domain of the healing art during the past century. And, yet, upon the whole it seems to me that the well-rounded general practitioner has a wider field of usefulness to society than the ordinary specialist of the present day, and for this reason, that the majority of specialists carry their specialism too far. The tendency is for each to consider his narrow spot the center around which the whole human microcosm revolves. It is very much as though one should say that the sole object of human life is manufacture of a skeleton. For is not the skeleton the most enduring part of the body? Does it not last ages after the individual has disappeared? What are the muscles for if not to move the skeleton? For what purpose are the viscera, if not to nourish the muscles; and the nervous system, if not to regulate nutrition and govern the muscles in their manipulation of that supreme apparatus, the skeleton?

The specialist, to be superior to the general practi-